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| 09/652,627      | 08/31/2000  | Kevin C. Schramm     | BFGHP0265US         | 4345             |

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06/04/2002

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EXAMINER

JEFFERY, JOHN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3742

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/652,627

Applicant(s)

SCHRAMM, KEVIN C.

Examiner

John A. Jeffery

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 and 26-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, and 19-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Stirzenbecher (US3697728) in view of Damron (US4374312). Stirzenbecher (US3697728) discloses an aircraft heated panel with aluminum face plate 14, and heater 24. The scope and breadth of the terms "lower support level" and "upper heater level" did not preclude the "lower support level" comprising aluminum 16 and honeycomb 12 and "upper heater level" including resistive foil 24. The claims differ from the previously cited prior art in calling for a pressure sensitive adhesive bonding the metal face sheet to the underlying support/heater layers. Damron (US4374312) discloses using a pressure sensitive adhesive 46, 48 to bond the electric heating element so that the element and support remains in a flat and secure position between the panel members. See Fig. 2 and col. 5, lines 31-47. In view of Damron (US4374312), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a pressure sensitive adhesive so that the element and support remains in a flat and secure position between the panel members.
3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds (US2512875) in view of Stirzenbecher (US3697728),

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CA721834, and further in view of Damron (US4374312). Reynolds (US2512875) discloses an electrically heated panel including electric heater 16 within adhesive layers mounted to a honeycomb support. See Fig. 1, col. 4, line 20 - col. 5, line 43. The claims differ from the previously cited prior art in calling for a metal face sheet for protecting the top of the panel. While Reynolds (US2512875) arguably discloses a metal "face sheet" 20 that would inherently provide a protection function for the underlying panel structure, nevertheless, providing a metal face sheet for protection of the underlying heated panel in an aircraft is conventional and well known in the art as evidenced by Stirzenbecher (US3697728) noting aluminum sheet 14. In view of Stirzenbecher (US3697728), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a metal face sheet in conjunction with the previously described apparatus so that the underlying panel and electric heating element were physically protected from traffic walking thereon. The claims also differ from the previously cited prior art in calling for pressure sensitive adhesive, and cured thermoset plastic material. While Reynolds (US2512875) is silent regarding the exact type of adhesive used to bond the layers together, the use of curable thermoset materials to bond layers together in an electric heater panel is conventional and well known in the art as evidenced by CA721834 noting Page 5, lines 1-14 wherein the bonding adhesive is disclosed to comprise thermosetting resins, thermoplastic synthetic resins, and the like. As noted in CA721834, such adhesives when cured do not soften or lose their electrical insulating properties at elevated electric heater operating temperatures. In view of CA721834, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use thermosetting curable

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adhesives for the adhesives in the previously described apparatus so that the adhesives when cured do not soften or lose their electrical insulating properties at elevated electric heater operating temperatures. The claims also differ from the previously cited prior art in calling for a pressure sensitive adhesive bonding the metal face sheet to the underlying support/heater layers. Damron (US4374312) discloses using a pressure sensitive adhesive 46, 48 to bond the electric heating element so that the element and support remains in a flat and secure position between the panel members. See Fig. 2 and col. 5, lines 31-47. In view of Damron (US4374312), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a pressure sensitive adhesive so that the element and support remains in a flat and secure position between the panel members.

4. Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds (US2512875) in view of Stirzenbecher (US3697728), CA721834, Damron (US4374312), and further in view of "Flight International" article entitled "New Carbon Composite Material Developed", or alternatively, Stirzenbecher (US3697728) in view of Damron (US4374312) and further in view of "Flight International" article entitled "New Carbon Composite Material Developed." The claims differ from the previously cited prior art in calling for the honeycomb layer to be sandwiched between fiber layers. Sandwiching a honeycomb layer between fiber layers is conventional and well known in the art as evidenced by "Flight International" article entitled "New Carbon Composite Material Developed" noting the Fibrelam 2000 carbonfibre/honeycomb sandwich structure which provides a lightweight, yet strong panel support structure ideally suited

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for aircraft use. In view of "Flight International" article entitled "New Carbon Composite Material Developed", it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a honeycomb/fiber sandwich in the previously described apparatus so that the panel strength was enhanced by the presence of fiber layers over and under the honeycomb layer so that a lightweight, yet strong panel support structure was provided ideally suited for aircraft use.

### ***Double Patenting***

5. The non-statutory double patenting rejection, whether of the obvious-type or non-obvious-type, is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent. *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); *In re Van Ornam*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); and *In re Goodman*, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

6. A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321 (b) and (c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a non-statutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.78 (d).

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7. Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a Terminal Disclaimer. A Terminal Disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 1-10 and 19-25 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2, 3, and 7-20 of copending Application No. 09/657691 in view of Stirzenbecher (US3697728) and further in view of Damron (US4374312). The claims differ from the claims of the copending application in calling for a metal face sheet for protecting the top of the panel. Providing a metal face sheet for protection of the underlying heated panel in an aircraft is conventional and well known in the art as evidenced by Stirzenbecher (US3697728) noting aluminum sheet 14. In view of Stirzenbecher (US3697728), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a metal face sheet in conjunction with the apparatus disclosed in the claims of the copending application so that the underlying panel and electric heating element were physically protected from traffic walking thereon. The claims also differ from the previously cited prior art in calling for a pressure sensitive adhesive bonding the metal face sheet to the underlying support/heater layers. Damron (US4374312) discloses using a pressure sensitive adhesive 46, 48 to bond the electric heating element so that the element and support remains in a flat and secure position between the panel members. See Fig. 2 and col. 5, lines 31-47. In view of Damron (US4374312), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a pressure sensitive

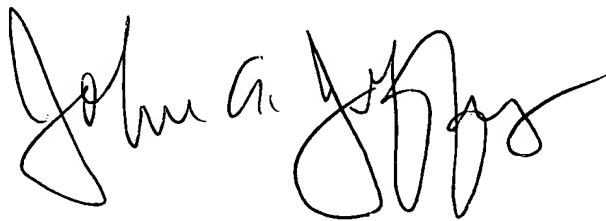
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adhesive so that the element and support remains in a flat and secure position between the panel members.

9. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

10. Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Jeffery at telephone number (703) 306-4601 or fax (703) 305-3463. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM EST. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Jeffery". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**JOHN A. JEFFERY**

**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

**5/31/02**